Claims:

1. Process for the manufacture of Olanzapine of the following formula I or a salt thereof:

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by converting a compound of the following formula II or a salt thereof

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$$\begin{array}{c|c}
N & N \\
R1 \\
R2 & II \\
N & N
\end{array}$$

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in which

(i)

(ii)

R1 and R2 are both H, or

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(iii) R1 is H and R2 is -CH(R3)-CH₂-CH₃, wherein R3 is a leaving group that can be eliminated together with R1 to result in R1 and R2 together forming =CH-CH₂-CH₃,

R1 and R2 together form =CH-CH2-CH3, or

to give Olanzapine or a salt thereof.

- 35 2. Process according to claim 1, in which the leaving group R3 is -OR4.
 - 3. Process according to claim 2, in which R4 is H.

- 4. Process according to claim 2, in which R4 is selected from the group of acyl and sulfonyl and preferably is trifluoroacetyl or methane sulfonyl.
- 5 5. Process according to any one of claims 1 to 4, in which R1 and R2 together form =CH-CH₂-CH₃ and the conversion is performed by reacting the compound of formula II with a source of sulfur.
- 10 6. Propylidene-benzodiazepine of the following formula III:

or salts thereof.

20 7. Benzodiazepine of the following formula IV:

or salts thereof.

30 8. Benzodiazepin-propanol of the following formula VI:

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or salts thereof.

.9. Benzodiazepine-ester of the following formula VII:

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in which R4 is selected from the group of acyl and sulfonyl and preferably is trifluoroacetyl or methane sulfonyl, or salts thereof.

15 10. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 6 to 9 for the manufacture of Olanzapine.

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